

01585

1993/01/21

DENG Xiaoping
(Rhymes with sung)
(6772/1420/1627)

Paramount Leader

Addressed as: Mr. Deng

You have done the work and I only help and support you. I have done something in setting the direction.

Deng Xiaoping on his role in economic reform, January 1992.

Deng Xiaoping, despite advanced age, poor health, and retirement from all formal posts, remains the final arbiter on key domestic and foreign policy issues. Although he publicly describes his influence on China's economic development in modest terms, he continues to direct the overall thrust of policy. His commitment to economic reform led him throughout the 1980s to open China to the outside world to acquire the resources, technology, and expertise necessary to carry out his plans for modernizing the country. His policies have increased China's involvement in international organizations, moderated Beijing's responses to disputes with other nations, and broadened the scope of the country's international relations.

A Political Survivor Reforms the System

Deng, who was born in August 1904, has had a long, tumultuous political career. He has been purged three times (1932, 1966, and 1976). The second-highest-ranking victim of the Cultural Revolution, he was relieved of his posts as General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), member of the Politburo, and vice premier. While he was out of power, according to a memoir written by one of his daughters, he spent two years in Beijing in isolation and three more in Jiangxi Province, where he and his family lived like peasants, chopping wood, working in factories, and tilling fields. Rehabilitated in 1973, Deng returned to Beijing and became a vice chairman of the CCP.



©

By 1976 he had regained his old post as a member of the Politburo Standing Committee. In March of that year leftists brought about his third downfall. In mid-1977, after the death of Mao Zedong and the purge of the Gang of Four, he regained the posts he had lost the previous year.

Deng has instigated highly successful reforms in agriculture, dismantling the communal system in favor of household contracts and small private plots. He has also moved to restructure the urban economy; his program has introduced market incentives in industry, reformed price and wage systems, and granted enterprises more autonomy. Furthermore, Deng has fundamentally reorganized the CCP, the military, and the central government bureaucracies.

In 1982 Deng became chairman of the CCP Central Advisory Commission. He abolished the post of party chairman—long identified with Mao—as a vestige of the leadership cult he has openly disavowed. In 1983, Deng created and became chairman of the Central Military Commission. In 1985, 1987, and again in 1992, during meetings of the CCP Central Committee, he removed most of the elderly members of the Politburo and replaced them with younger officials who more strongly support his policies.

(continued)

Family Matters

A devoted family man and a doting grandfather, Deng lives with his third wife, Zhuo Lin. He has five children. One son, confined to a wheelchair, is chairman of the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped. His other son graduated from the University of Rochester in New York. Of his

daughters, one has served at the Embassy in Washington; one is a noted painter; and the third is a vice minister of the State Science and Technology Commission.

21 January 1993